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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/803,225

03/16/2004

Zeying Ma

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MARISSA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/803,225

Applicant(s)

MA ET AL.

Examiner

Marissa L. Ferguson-Samreth

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 7-9, 16, 17 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893).

Regarding claims 1, 16, 17 and 24, Choy et al. teaches the invention and method claimed comprising offset media and an inkjet ink including a pigment colorant, wherein the inkjet ink is configured to be ink jetted onto the offset media (Abstract, Page 3, Paragraph 0017 and Page 9, Paragraph 0033). However, he does not explicitly disclose a calendaring device comprising a pair of rollers configured for applying pressure to offset media once the inkjet ink is ink-jetted thereon. Kowalski teaches a method of printing an ink jet ink on a print medium comprising a heating/pressing calendaring device (element 22,122), which may contain rollers (Column 8, Lines 49-60). The method also consist of providing or jetting an ink of a medium forming an intermediate image and then subjecting the medium to pressure (Column 1, Lines 46-61). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include a calendaring device as

taught by Kowalski, since Kowalski teaches it is advantageous to provide a medium with a water fast and smear fast printed image (Column 1, Lines 56-61).

Regarding claims 7-9, 23 and 25, Choy et al. teaches the invention and method claimed with the exception of mechanical pressure applied at from 500 psi to 3000 psi and applying a heat from 20° to 90° C. Also, Kowalski does not teach the claimed range, he does at least teach a calendaring treatment that applies a pressure of 3 to 40 psi (Column 8, Line 42) and applies a temperature of between 180° and 220° (Column 8, Line 43). However, it has been held that where general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Geisler, 43 USPQ 1362. It would have been obvious to test several different pressures and temperatures since such a modification would result in achieving the best and optimal results.

Regarding claim 22, Choy et al. teaches wherein the pigment colorant is present in the inkjet ink at from 0.5 % to 10% (Page 4, Line 27).

2. Claims 2, 10-13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893) as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, further in view of Kitamura et al. (US Patent 6,498,222).

Regarding claims 2 and 18, Choy et al. and Kowalski both teach the method and apparatus claimed with the exception of a fixer composition including a crashing agent that is reactive with a component of the inkjet ink, a fixer composition being configured to be overprinted or under printed on the offset media with respect to the inkjet ink.

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Kitamura et al. teaches an inkjet system with a crashing agent component (Column 13, Lines 35-55, Column 14, Lines 14-60) configured to be overprinted or under printed on a substrate. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include a crash agent as taught by Kitamura et al., since Kitamura et al. teaches it is advantageous to provide a fast drying image.

Regarding claims 10-13, Choy et al. and Kowalski both teach the method and apparatus claimed with the exception of a crashing agent selected from the group consisting of cationic polymers, multivalent metal ions or ionic groups, acids, and combinations thereof, a crashing agent that is a cationic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyridines, polyalkylaminoethyl acrylates, polyalkylaminoethyl methacrylates, polyvinyl imidazole), polyethyleneimines, polybiguanides, polyguanides, polyvinylamines, polyallylarnines ,polyacrylamines, polyquaternaryamines, cationic polyuretanenes, aminocelluloses, polysacchride amines and combinations thereof, a crashing agent that is a multivalent metal ion or ionic group is provided by a member selected from the group consisting of multivalent metal nitrates, EDTA salts, phosphonium halide salts, organic acids, chloride salts, and combinations thereof and a crashing agent that is an acid selected from the group consisting of succinic acid, glycolic acid, citric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, polyacrylic acid, acetic acid, malonic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, glutaric acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, nitrous acid, boric acid, carbonic acid, carboxylic acids such as formic acid, chloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid,

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fluoroacetic acid, trimethylacetic acid, methoxyacetic acid, mercaptoacetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, linolic acid, linoleic acid, cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, phenylacetic acid, benzoic acid, o-toluic acid, m-toluic acid, p-toluic acid, o-chlorobenzoic acid, m-chlorobenzoic acid, p-chlorobenzoic acid, o-bromobenzoic acid, m-bromobenzoic acid, p-bromobenzoic acid, o-nitrobenzoic acid, m-nitrobenzoic acid, p-nitrobenzoic acid, oxalic acid, adipic acid, phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, salicylic acid, phenylbenzoic acid, anthranilic acid, m-aminobenzoic acid, p-aminobenzoic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, methylbenzenesulfonic acid, ethyl benzenesulfonic acid, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, s-sulfosalicylic acid, l-sulfonaphthalene, hexanesulfonic acid, octanesulfonic acid, dodecanesulfonic acid, amino acids such as glycine, alanine, valine, gamma-aminobutyric acid, alpha-aminobutyric acid, a-alanine, taurine, serine, alpha-amino-n-caproic acid, leucine, norleucine, phenylalanine, and combinations thereof.

Kitamura et al. teaches a crashing agent consisting of polymeric ionic crashing agent that is a polyacrylamide (Column 14, Lines 55-57) and an acidic crashing agent selected from sulfuric acid, acetic acid, glycolic acid, hydrochloric acid and propionic acid (Column 14, Lines 20-28). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include a crash agent selected from a group of acids and cationic polymers as taught by Kitamura et al., since Kitamura et al. teaches it is advantageous to improve durability and water fastness of an inkjet ink image on a printed substrate.

3. Claims 3, 19 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893) and Kitamura et al. (US Patent 6,498,222) as applied to claims 2 and 18 above, and further in view of Iwasaki et al. (US Patent 6,800,588).

Regarding claims 3 and 19, Choy et al., Kowalski and Kitamura et al. all teach the claimed method and invention with the exception of a crashing agent present in a composition at from 0.1 wt% to 10 wt%. Iwasaki et al. teaches an acid surfactant contained in an ink-jet ink with a weight composition of 0.5 wt% to 10% by weight and 1 to 5 wt% by layer (Column 4, Lines 59-67 and Column 5, Lines 1-4). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include a crash agent with a weight 0.5-10% as taught by Iwasaki et al., since Iwasaki et al. teaches it is advantageous to improve the resistance of inkjet ink.

Regarding claim 26, Choy et al. and Kowalski both teach the method and apparatus claimed with the exception of a crashing agent selected from the group consisting of cationic polymers, multivalent metal ions or ionic groups, acids, and combinations thereof, a crashing agent that is a cationic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyridines, polyalkylaminoethyl acrylates, polyalkylaminoethyl methacrylates, polyvinyl imidazole), polyethyleneimines, polybiguanides, polyguanides, polyvinylamines, polyallylarnines ,polyacrylamines, polyquaternaryamines, cationic polyuretanenes, aminecelluloses, polysacchride amines and combinations thereof, a crashing agent that is a multivalent metal ion or ionic group is provided by a member

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selected from the group consisting of multivalent metal nitrates, EDTA salts, phosphonium halide salts, organic acids, chloride salts, and combinations thereof and a crashing agent that is an acid selected from the group consisting of succinic acid, glycolic acid, citric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, polyacrylic acid, acetic acid, malonic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, glutaric acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, nitrous acid, boric acid, carbonic acid, carboxylic acids such as formic acid, chloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, fluoroacetic acid, trimethylacetic acid, methoxyacetic acid, mercaptoacetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, linolic acid, linoleic acid, cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, phenylacetic acid, benzoic acid, o-toluic acid, m-toluic acid, p-toluic acid, o-chlorobenzoic acid, m-chlorobenzoic acid, p-chlorobenzoic acid, o-bromobenzoic acid, m-bromobenzoic acid, p-bromobenzoic acid, o-nitrobenzoic acid, m-nitrobenzoic acid, p-nitrobenzoic acid, oxalic acid, adipic acid, phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, salicylic acid, phenylbenzoic acid, anthranilic acid, m-aminobenzoic acid, p-aminobenzoic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, methylbenzenesulfonic acid, ethyl benzenesulfonic acid, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, s-sulfosalicylic acid, l-sulfonaphthalene, hexanesulfonic acid, octanesulfonic acid, dodecanesulfonic acid, amino acids such as glycine, alanine, valine, gamma-aminobutyric acid, alpha-aminobutyric acid, asparagine, taurine, serine, alpha-amino-n-caproic acid, leucine, norleucine, phenylalanine, and combinations thereof.

Kitamura et al. teaches a crashing agent consisting of polymeric ionic crashing agent that is a polyacrylamide (Column 14, Lines 55-57) and an acidic crashing agent selected from sulfuric acid, acetic acid, glycolic acid, hydrochloric acid and propionic acid (Column 14, Lines 20-28). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include a crash agent selected from a group of acids and cationichonic polymers as taught by Kitamura et al., since Kitamura et al. teaches it is advantageous to improve durability and water fastness of an inkjet ink image on a printed substrate.

4. Claims 4, 5, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893) as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Ishikawa et al. (US Publication 2002/0175983).

Choy et al. and Kowalski both teach the method and invention claimed including the claimed weight as discussed in claim 6 above, however the references do not explicitly disclose latex particulates dispersed in the inkjet ink. Ishikawa et al. teaches latex particulate dispersion in inkjet inks (Paragraph 0006). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include dispersing particulates in an inkjet ink as taught by Ishikawa et al., since Ishikawa et al. teaches it is advantageous to improve water resistance, light fastness and rub resistance of inkjet images.

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5. Claims 6, 14, 15, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893) and Ishikawa et al. (US Publication 2002/0175983) as applied to claims 4, 5, 20 and 21 above, and further in view of Tamagawa et al. (2003/019885).

Regarding claims 6,14,15,27 and 28, Choy et al., Kowalski and Ishikawa et al. both teach the invention and method claimed with the exception of latex particulates present in the overcoat composition at from 0.1 wt% to 15% wt and being predominantly from 20 nm-500nm and 10,000 Mw to 2,000,000 in size. Tamagawa et al. does not teach the exact /specific claimed molecular weight, however he does at least teach core/shell latex particles with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to 500,000 (Mn(c)) of the core and 4,000 to 30,000 [Mn(s)] of the shell and particle size of 0.2 pm (Page 5, Paragraphs 0079-0081). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include the claimed range latex particles in an overcoat composition as taught by Tamagawa et al., since Tamagawa et al. teaches it is advantageous to provide a recording material with excellent surface smoothness and water resistant qualities.

6. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Tamagawa et al. (2003/019885).

Choy et al. and Kowalski both teach the method and apparatus claimed with the exception of a step of applying heat to the printed image to contribute to the physical

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property of the image being altered and a physical property is smoothness, wherein upon applying pressure, the printed image is modified from having a textured profile to a smoother profile. Tamagawa et al. provides the calendaring treatment in order to alter the appearance of a substrate by providing a smooth surface (Paragraph 0011). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to smoothness as a physical attribute as taught by Tamagawa et al., since Tamagawa et al. teaches it is advantageous to form an image having superior image quality and gloss.

7. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (EPO 1,329,487) in view of Kowalski (US Publication 6,536,893) as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view Deguchi et al. (JP 02026747).

Choy et al. and Kowalski both teach the method and invention claimed except for wherein the physical property is flow, wherein upon applying pressure, the printed image is temporarily modified from a more solid configuration to a more liquid configuration. Deguchi et al. teaches a hot melt type ink jet printer that melts the printing ink on a paper and softens the ink due to pressure applied by a device (Purpose and Constitution). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention taught by Choy et al. to include a printing image that is temporarily modified due to pressure as taught by Deguchi et al., since Deguchi et al. teaches that it is advantageous to add heat in order to make the printed image into a more liquid configuration.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L. Ferguson-Samreth whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other (F) 7:30am-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marissa L Ferguson-Samreth
Examiner

Application/Control Number: 10/803,225

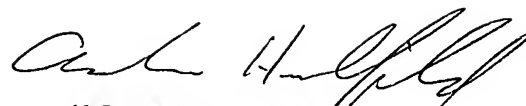
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MFS

February 22, 2006


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